Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim 15. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for determining the susceptibility of a subject to infection, which method comprises:
   (i) providing a sample from said subject;
   (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
   (iii) comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and
   (iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has an increased susceptibility to infection.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the infection is a bacterial infection.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said bacterial infection is an *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* infection.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said infection is an oral infection.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said oral infection is periodontitis.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the mature form of LL-37.

9. (Previously presented) A method of treating an individual to reduce the risk of infection comprising administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of LL-37 effective to reduce susceptibility to infection, wherein said individual has a lowered level of LL-37 compared to a normal subject.

10. (Previously presented) A method for determining the susceptibility of an individual to infection and treating the individual to reduce the risk of infection, the method comprising:

(i) providing a sample from a subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject;

(iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has an increased susceptibility to infection; and

(v) administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of an antimicrobial agent effective to reduce susceptibility to infection.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the antimicrobial agent is LL-37.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said subject is being treated or has been treated using a cytostatic drugs and/or a corticosteriod.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said infection is gingivitis and/or periodontitis.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 14 wherein ~~said medicament~~ the LL-37 is formulated as a toothpaste or mouthwash.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is a nucleic acid encoding the proform or the mature form of LL-37.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is an analogue of LL-37.

19. (Previously presented) A method for treating infection in a subject having neutropenia, comprising administering to a subject having neutropenia in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37, wherein said subject having neutropenia has a lowered level of LL-37 compared to a normal subject.

20. (Previously presented) A method of diagnosing neutropenia in a subject, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and

(iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has neutropenia.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the neutropenia is morbus Kostmann.

23. (Previously presented) A method of determining whether a subject having neutropenia has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and

(iv) determining whether said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, wherein no LL-37 or a lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject;

(iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in the control sample indicates that said subject has neutropenia; and

(v) administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent suitable for the treatment of neutropenia to a subject having neutropenia.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein said agent is LL-37.

27. (Original) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37.

28-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A method for treating infection in a subject receiving or who has received a cytostatic drug, corticosteroid or growth factor, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37, wherein said subject has a lowered level of LL-37 compared to a normal subject.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the growth factor is G-CSF or GM-CSF.